

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Robert L. Salter, Acting Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK STOCKS

Project No. 88E25032

Period Covered: October 1 to December 31, 1979

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

January, 1980

Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook Stocks

ABSTRACT :

A total of 2,540,000 eyed spring chinook eggs were placed in Indian Creek Incubation Channel during October of 1979. These eggs were received from the Cowlitz Hatchery in Washington. Indian Creek was the only incubation channel utilized this year for chinook eggs.

REPORT OF PROGRESS ;

Due to the near record low returns of adult spring chinook to Idaho streams in the fall of 1979, no excess eyed eggs were available from Rapid River Hatchery. We, therefore, obtained eyed eggs from the Cowlitz Hatchery in Washington for planting in the Indian Creek Channel on the upper Selway.

On 15 October, Department personnel transported 1,280,000 eyed spring chinook eggs from the Cowlitz Hatchery to Indian Creek channel. On 18 October, we transported and planted an additional 1,260,000 eggs, bringing the total in the channel to 2,540,000. All eggs were placed in wet burlap sacks, iced down, placed in wire baskets and transported in a 3 / 4 ton Dodge pickup. They appeared to survive the trip quite well. We received much appreciated assistance in placing the eggs in the gravel from several U. S. Forest Service personnel from the West Fork Ranger District. Wire mesh was placed over the channel bottom to prevent raccoon depredation on the eggs.

A channel tender was hired to live at the channel from 1 November through 15 June. A 16 x 18 foot wall tent and appropriate furnishings were supplied by the U. S. Forest Service for habitation by the tender.

Trips were made to check the channel and channel tender on 6 November and 18 December. Spot checks of the channel on both occasions revealed numerous live eggs and very few dead eggs. On the December trip, there was about 18 inches of snow on Nez Perce Pass and about 1 inch at the channel. The snowpack in the Clearwater drainage was about 70 percent of normal at year's end.

Submitted by :

Ronald L. Lindland
Regional Fishery Biologist